



OKRĘGOWA RADA ADWOKACKA
W KRAKOWIE

Krakow, 26.04.2022

Dear Presidents, Dear Colleagues:

It's already been one hundred days since the start of the war, and it is time to present you with a debrief of what we accomplished. As you know the Krakow Bar Association is engaged in helping Ukraine and its lawyers. What has started as a spontaneous impulse has turned into a complex operation. And this is thanks to your solidarity; I would like to thank you.

We have focused our efforts in 4 main directions:

- 1. Legal aid provided pro bono for refugees,*
- 2. Assistance for Ukrainian lawyers and their families, both in Poland and in Ukraine,*
- 3. Cooperation with bar associations and NGOs,*
- 4. Humanitarian aid.*

Ad 1 LEGAL AID

Like any other bar association in Poland, Krakow Bar Association offered free legal help to refugees. At first, legal help was given in the Bar Association offices in Krakow in person by Polish lawyers assisted by translators. Then we have welcomed into this task force assistance from Ukrainian lawyers. Additionally, we have compiled and published a list of lawyers ready to offer pro bono advice from their offices. Finally, a national helpline at +48 800 088 544 was created jointly by all legal professions in Poland.

Ad 2 ASSISTANCE FOR LAWYERS

HOUSING

Krakow Bar Association coordinates a collective effort of our members working together with judges to host as many lawyer's families at our homes as possible. This is a dynamic process; people are coming and going, some stay for a few days, others for weeks or months. We are looking for solutions in a case-by-case manner, considering factors such as the number of people, children, domestic animals, possession of a car, etc.

EMPLOYMENT

At the Krakow Bar Association, we have created a space for lawyers looking for cooperation opportunities on the one hand and for law firms open to working with Ukrainian lawyers on the other.

In cooperation with the local authorities, we are facilitating paid internships (3-6 months) in Krakow law offices for Ukrainian lawyers who are under 35 years of age.

We would be happy to cooperate with lawyers from other European bar associations who could offer to Ukrainian colleagues some income prospects in their respective countries or preferably online.

LANGUAGE AND NETWORKING

We have invited Ukrainian lawyers to accompany Polish lawyers while they give free legal advice. They appreciate this opportunity, allowing them to meet local lawyers and build relations. We have also paid for Polish language courses for Ukrainian lawyers.

Ad 3 COOPERATION

Krakow Bar Association stay in contact with Ukrainian bar associations and lawyers who organize themselves in response to the crisis. This enables us to respond to their needs and to be aware of the changing situation on the local level. The support from Ukrainian lawyers allows us to facilitate the work of humanitarian and legal initiatives which need assistance in Ukraine.

Krakow Bar Association is also in contact with Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union.

We cooperate with European bar associations, which provide financial contributions. Without their help, most of the humanitarian aid described below would never reach Ukraine. The Brussels Bar Association is our primary partner, whose generosity is outstanding.

In a joint effort to provide meaningful assistance to Ukrainian lawyers, we work with international lawyers' organizations with a global reach, such as UIA or IAFL.

We try to foster the direct exchange of ideas and information between Ukrainians and their European colleagues by facilitating in-person or online meetings with the former vice-president of the Union of Advocates of Ukraine, Pavlo Lutsyuk, and the foreign leaders of the legal community. Such discussions already took place in Quebec with the president of the Quebec Bar Association, in Brussels with two presidents of the Brussels Bar Associations, and in Warsaw with the President and leaders of UIA. The next meeting is planned in Paris with leaders of the French Bar Association.

Finally, we are in contact with NGOs and charities, helping Ukraine differently.

Ad 4 HUMANITARIAN AID

Krakow Bar Association focuses its efforts on humanitarian aid for Ukraine. We believe that this is what is most and urgently needed. We are collecting material supplies and financial contributions continuously.

Till now, our shipments with humanitarian aid reached not only Lviv, Rivne, or Luck but also Kharkiv and Mykolaiv which suffered from shelling. We leave the question of distribution to local lawyers, trusting their good judgment.

Two ambulances loaded with medical equipment and humanitarian aid have been successfully sent to Ukraine, the first to Mykolaiv and the second to Rivne. We have also acquired and delivered Vacuum-assisted closure of a wound system with a set of accessories for two months of treatment.

Two more ambulances, headed for Kharkiv and Winnica, have already been acquired and are in preparation for the delivery (loading with humanitarian aid and medical equipment).

We are talking with a major American hospital about the medical assistance, which will rely on two pillars, hospitalization of qualified patients in the US and shipment of medical equipment from the US to Ukraine.

Our focus till now has been on bringing assistance in kind, i.e., shipments of food, clothes, medical supplies, and last but not least, ambulances. Now, we are also trying to get targeted financial assistance for the Kyiv Region's Bar Association some of whose lawyers lived and practiced in cities such as Bucha, Irpien, Borodianka, and others.

Under the link below, you will find details for financial contributions and in-kind donations (instructions for medical shipments), some recognition statements, and local videos.

<https://adwokatura.krakow.pl/aktualnosci/solidarity-with-ukraine-2730.html>

Summary

We all wish this war to end as soon as possible. But unfortunately, this is not going to happen in the coming weeks or months. We can congratulate ourselves on how much we have accomplished, but we all know that much more is needed.

Slowly, we are building a network of goodwill, which enable us to become a bridge between those who can help in the legal and professional community and those who need help.

We believe that lawyers have a vast potential to bring aid. We count on you to join forces and continue to make this humanitarian project possible.

With your engagement, we are helping the Ukrainian population. By doing so, we are empowering Ukrainian lawyers, who, thanks to your solidarity, are making a difference in their local community.

Our appeal rests the same as in my first letter, if you want to help us help Ukrainians, please join.

Material supplies can be delivered to the Krakow Bar Association

Krakowska Izba Adwokacka

Ul. Batorego 17, 31-135 Krakow, POLAND

Finacial contributions can be made to Krakow Bar Association

Krakowska Izba Adwokacka

Batorego 17 , 31-135 Kraków, POLAND

IBAN: PL 65 1050 1445 1000 0090 3043 5714

BIC (SWIFT): INGBPLPW, sort code: 105014

bank: ING BANK SLASKI S.A.

Transfer title : « self-management of the Bar : Aid for Ukrainian lawyers »

The past three months have not been easy, but at least something have been accomplished. Thank you.

Best regards,



Adw. Aleksander Gut

President of the Krakow Bar Association